



April 2021

# City Happenings



## New Solar Array Nears Completion



At the northeast corner of Jim Kelly Field Airport (13th & Airport Road), a new one megawatt solar farm is just weeks from going online. In the photo above, the solar panels are facing straight up. Once operational, they will pivot from east to west as the sun crosses the sky.

The City of Lexington will purchase all electricity generated from the new solar farm to provide additional renewable energy for the community and help reduce total carbon emissions in

Nebraska. When this project goes online, the City will have renewable solar energy capacity to represent just over 10% of the peak energy demand in the community.

The City plans to continue to explore and expand cost effective renewable energy options into the future. Currently in Lexington, the electricity being supplied to your home or business is estimated to be from an energy mix that is 64% carbon-free.





UTILITIES SYSTEM

## EnergyWise Tip: **Tips for Renters**



*by NPPD Energy Efficiency  
Program Manager Cory Fuehrer*

Not everyone can replace their furnace with a high-efficiency heat pump, either because they are renting or because they cannot afford it. However, there are still some inexpensive opportunities to reduce energy use while improving your comfort at home.

### **Thermostat settings**

About 50% of home energy consumption is used for heating and cooling. By carefully managing thermostat temperature settings in your home, significant savings can be realized. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends settings of 68°F in the heating season and 78°F during the cooling season when someone is home and active. When away or during sleeping hours, they suggest turning the thermostat down to 55°F in the winter and up to 85°F or higher in the summer. If that is too cool in the winter, try putting on an extra sweater rather than turning the thermostat up.

### **Smart thermostats**

If you have difficulties remembering to adjust your thermostat at bedtime or when leaving, a smart thermostat may provide a better opportunity for savings. According to product

manufacturers, smart thermostats, when properly installed and used, reduce heating and cooling bills by 10 to 15%. But as with any opportunity to reduce energy consumption, the savings potential depends on how much consumers are willing to leverage a smart thermostat's benefits. Do not buy one until getting approval from your landlord, if you rent, and confirming the model you are choosing is compatible with your central heating and cooling system.



### **Zone heat**

If you use electric baseboard heaters and do not mind less-used rooms being colder, you might be able to save some money by zone heating. Electric baseboards make this easy since they usually have thermostats for each room. Portable electric space heaters can be a good tool for zone heating, too, if they are used safely and wisely in the area you spend the most time in and you reduce heating levels in the rest of the house. Space heaters that are used

incorrectly can be dangerous and can even increase energy costs.

### **Stop air leaks**

Little gaps around windows and doors, as well as wiring and plumbing penetrations, can be sources of winter cold and summer heat. With a little weather stripping and caulk, these air leaks can easily be alleviated, but if renting, you should probably check with your landlord before you get started. If cold air is pouring under the bottom of outside doors, a \$10 door draft stopper is a simple way to block gaps and improve indoor comfort.

### **Windows and window coverings**

Your windows may be letting heat in during summer days and heat out in winter. Window coverings such as thermal blinds or medium- to heavy-weight curtains or thermal blinds can help you manage your home's heat loss or gain. In summer, keep blinds and curtains closed to prevent the sun from heating the cooler inside air. On cold, cloudy winter days and nights, window coverings can keep warmth inside. Opening up window coverings during the winter when receiving direct

*(continues on next page)*





## Tips for Renters

(continued from previous page)

sunlight is a 'passive solar' technique that can reduce heating costs. Also, the interior of windows can be covered with clear plastic to reduce heat loss and air leaks.


### Water heaters

Since about 10% of a home's energy use is related to water heating, turning the temperature setting down can save energy. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety & Health Administration recommend a setting of 120°F to optimize savings while reducing the potential from scalding.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most from the energy needed to run your home! Contact LEXUS or visit [www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com) if you would like more information on other low-cost/no-cost energy-saving measures, as well as various EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> incentives that may be available to you.



LEXINGTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



**BEER GARDEN**

Key '21  
Virtual Auction

Bid Online! - Open to Anyone

[Qtego.net/qlink/lcf](http://Qtego.net/qlink/lcf)

Key '21 is going VIRTUAL

Preview Night will be held April 23 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express.

Bidding will open April 19 at [Qtego.net/qlink/lcf](http://Qtego.net/qlink/lcf)

Bidding closes on the evening of April 24.

**National Police Week**

**May 9-15, 2021**



President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15 to be **National Peace Officers Memorial Day**.

To celebrate Police Week, Tuesday, May 11, is "National Wear Purple for Peace" Day.

Thursday is "Turn Lex Blue Day," a day to wear blue in honor of all law enforcement officers.

**NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK**

May 2 - 8, 2021



SHOP SMALL - SHOP LOCAL!





**Before**



YOUR **2019** CITY

**Plum Creek Park N Parking Lot**

**After**



**2020**  
PROGRESS!

NEBRASKA  
PUBLIC TRANSIT WEEK

**20  
21**



APRIL 11-17

**SAVE THE DATE**

**DRIVING RANGE  
NOW OPEN**

**Self-Service  
Observe Social  
Distancing**



May be closed if cold or rainy . . .  
Notices posted on the City's Facebook Page  
**Just southeast of the Lexington Fieldhouse  
Optimist Recreation Complex  
13th & Airport Road**

**Small Bucket**  
about 40 balls

**\$3**

**Medium Bucket**  
about 75 balls

**\$5**

**Large Bucket**  
about 105 balls

**\$7**







## Library News

by Kathy Thomsen  
Library Director



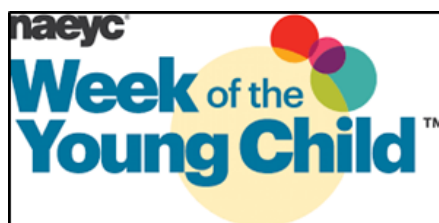
907  
North  
Washington  
Street  
(308) 324-2151



**NATIONAL  
LIBRARY WEEK**  
APRIL 4-10, 2021

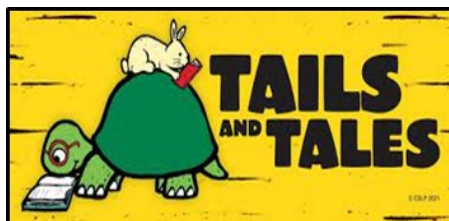


The theme for **National Library Week 2021** is **Welcome to Your Library**. National Library Week runs from April 4 - 10, 2021. The American Library Association says trips to the library are the most common cultural activities Americans engage in. Americans go to the library more times every year than they go to the movies, theme parks, museums, or national parks. Just think about all a library offers nowadays.



**Children's programs** for April will continue to be virtual. On Friday, April 2, the library will host **Easter at the Library**. Children can listen to Easter themed stories at 3:00 p.m. and then stop by the library between 3-5 p.m. to pick out an **Easter Egg**. A bilingual **Storytime** will be offered at 10:00 a.m. on Wed., April 7. On Tuesday, April 13, we welcome guest storyteller

**Katie Maloley** at 4:30 p.m. A special **The Wonderful Things You Will Be!** will be offered at 10:30 a.m. on April 16 to celebrate the **Week of the Young Child**, which runs from April 10 - April 16, 2021. **Accompañame a Leer** will be presented at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20. Children can celebrate **Earth Day** on April 22 by attending the library's virtual Earth Day Storytime. Another day in April that celebrates the wonders of nature and the earth is **Arbor Day**. Arbor Day will be celebrated virtually at 11:00 a.m. on April 30 with the program **Feliz Día del Niño**.



Registration for children preschool age through fifth grade for **Summer Reading 2021** will begin on Friday, May 21. The theme for summer reading 2021 is **Tails and Tales**. Summer reading programming for children will begin in June, with the kick-off scheduled for June 8.



The first session of **Prime Time Family Reading Time** will be held on Friday, April 16, at 5:00 p.m.

The remaining sessions will be held on the next five Friday evenings. A light supper will be served at 5:00 p.m. followed by the bilingual reading program at 5:30 p.m. The Prime Time Reading program targets children from Kindergarten through Grade 3 and their families. Registration is required. Please stop by or call the Library (308-324-2151) to register your family.



Prime Time is sponsored by **Humanities Nebraska** and the Lexington Public Library.



## SUMMER JOBS - Temporary Seasonal Workers, Part-time

**APPLY  
NOW!**

### Positions available include:

- Concession Workers (age 14+)
- Lifeguards (age 15+)
- City Park and Cemetery Maintenance (age 16+)



The City of Lexington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.  
Download an application from the city website,  
[www.cityoflex.com/human-resources/](http://www.cityoflex.com/human-resources/).

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
*April is Fair Housing Month*  
**FAIR HOUSING  
IS YOUR RIGHT: USE IT!**



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

## ATTENTION DOG OWNERS



As you and your dog are out walking in your neighborhoods, in the City's parks or on the trails, please remember to clean up after your dog.

A simple plastic bag slipped over your hand like a glove makes an efficient and clean pick-up tool. Picking up is just part of having a dog. It may seem silly at first, but people who see you do it will know any mess left behind is NOT from your dog. Picking up shows pride in your community, in yourself, and in your dog. You'll set a great example for others, and will help create a positive image for dogs and their owners.



22 APRIL  
**EARTH  
DAY**







## Like us on Facebook!

Get the latest scoops about what's going on in Lexington!

Facebook users: be sure to search for "City of Lexington, Nebraska" (not to be confused with the generic page the FaceBook folks created). Only our official page gives you the latest news and updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/City-of-Lexington-Nebraska/157277430966096>



**801 West Vine St.  
308-324-5995  
Mon. - Fri.  
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

## SUMMER SATURDAYS

**(May - October):**

**The Service Building is open  
the third Saturday of the month  
8 a.m. - 12 p.m**



- dispose of furniture, appliances, pallets, and other large items (small fee may apply)
- recycle paper, plastic, and cardboard
- pick up free wood chips or compost



**SOCIAL DISTANCING AND OTHER HEALTH MEASURES ARE NOW BEING OBSERVED.**



## Recycle Your Electronics for FREE!\*

Including CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) Monitors and TVs (limit of 2 CRTs per resident)

**Saturday, April 10, 2021**

**8 AM – Noon**

**LASWA Landfill, 76460 Hwy 21  
(10 miles north of Lexington)**

\*For restrictions and event details visit [RecycleYourOldTV.org](http://RecycleYourOldTV.org) or call 308-324-3351.



## YARD WASTE ONLY!

At the yard waste site on East Walnut



**Violators subject to fines.**  
**Other large items may be disposed of at the City Service Building, 801 W Vine.**

## Free Paper Shredding Event

**April 16, 2021 - 3:00 - 5:00 PM**

**617 North Grant Street**



Please remember no binder clips, metal binders or hanging folders.  
(Paper clips, staples and rubber bands are okay)

All of the shredded paper is baled and recycled. One ton of paper saves 17 trees and 3 cubic yards of landfill space.

**SPONSORED BY:**

**H&R BLOCK**

Keep Lexington Beautiful

Remember, you're not just getting rid of weeds and pests



## Choose Earth-friendly landscaping

**Did you know that herbicides and pesticides are harmful to our kids, pets, and the environment?**

The chemicals in these materials pollute our waterways if washed from our lawns and gardens into storm drains or roadside ditches that lead directly to our lakes and rivers. Practicing Earth-friendly landscaping in your yard and garden can help protect kids, pets, and our waterways.

### So what can you do? Simple:

- Select plants native to Nebraska. These plants require less fertilizer and water, and are more disease resistant.
- Avoid over-watering your lawn — it needs about one inch of rain/water per week.
- Use mulch around trees and plants to help retain water, reduce weeds, and minimize the need for pesticides.
- Mow your lawn high — 3 inches is the rule. Follow your community's leaf pick-up guidelines. Try mowing grass clippings and leaves into your lawn — they make good fertilizers.
- Use herbicides and pesticides sparingly and limit application to problem areas only.

**Choose Earth-friendly landscaping and help keep our water clean!**



Support provided by  
Nebr. Dept. of  
Environment  
& Energy

CITY OF  
**Lexington**  
NEBRASKA  
[www.cityoflex.com](http://www.cityoflex.com)

**"To leave the world better than you found it, sometimes you have to pick up other people's trash."**





# Recreation Programs and Event Schedule for Spring & Summer

## Spring Programs

### ◆ Youth Baseball:

South Central Nebraska Baseball League  
Register at Lexington Fieldhouse: March 15 or 22  
Instruction March 29 - April 29  
Games May 11— June 30  
Ages 9—12

## Summer Programs

### ◆ Youth Tennis

4th Grade—High School Instruction  
Tuesday and Thursday Mornings  
June 1—July 8

Pre-K—3rd Grade Instruction  
Monday Evenings  
Classes will begin August 9

### ◆ Youth Golf

Monday Morning Instruction  
City of Lex Driving Range  
Grades: 4th - 8th Grade  
June 7—28

### ◆ Youth Basketball

Wednesday Afternoons June 9—30  
Grades: 4th—5th & 6th—8th  
Instruction & 3-On-3 Gameplay

### ◆ Red Cross Swim Lessons

Pre-K—Level 6 Lessons  
Dates: TBD

\*No Online Registration

Registrations Available at Lexington Family Aquatic Center

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Saturday, May 29

◆ Aussie Open Tennis:  
Mary Maloley Memorial Tennis Tournament

### Sunday, June 13

◆ Triathlon Kickoff:  
June 13—July 11 (28 Days to Finish)

### Saturday, June 19

◆ Outdoor Powerlifting Competition:  
Ages: High School to Adult

### July 4th Weekend

◆ 5K Run for the Parks:  
Virtual Plum Creek 5K Walk/Run with Obstacles

### Saturday, August 14

◆ Outdoor Pickleball  
Tournament



Find us on:  
**facebook**

@cityoflexparksandrec

Jake Saulsbury  
jsaulsbury@cityoflex.com  
308-746-3543

Ann Luther  
aluther@cityoflex.com  
308-325-5277

## Register Online:

Active.com "City of Lexington Youth Programs"

<https://www.active.com/lexington-ne/clinics/city-of-lexington-youth-program-registration-forms-spring-and-summer-2021?int>

CLIP & SAVE

# TORNADO

Now that "tornado season" is here, Emergency Management Warning Sirens will sound to alert residents of an impending tornado in our area.

## TORNADO NATURAL DISASTER TECHNICAL HAZARD

### 3 MINUTE STEADY SIGNAL

This signal indicates that a tornado, natural disaster, or technical hazard is pending. Persons should take cover or move to a place of safety and listen to a local radio or television station for information and further instructions. This siren may sound more than once if deemed necessary by Emergency Management.

**Do not call the police or radio station to ask for information. People SIGHTING a tornado or funnel in this are urged to notify the Dawson County Emergency Center at 911.**

### ALL-CLEAR

The all-clear bulletin will be issued by the local radio and TV stations in cooperation with the National Weather Service.

**Local Emergency Management WILL NOT issue an all-clear statement.**

During unusual threatening weather or emergency conditions, listen to a local radio or TV station for further information.

## SAFETY GUIDELINES

The following are general safety guidelines for seeking shelter:

- Move to a lower level or basement
  - If no lower level is available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
  - Stay away from windows.
  - Flying debris from tornadoes causes most deaths and injuries. Cover your head and make yourself the smallest target possible.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car; instead, get out of the vehicle and seek safe shelter in a nearby building.
- If you are outside and there is no shelter immediately available, avoid trees and vehicles. Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safe in a low, flat location. Lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands.



Emergency warning system tests of one minute in duration are conducted the first Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. **Sirens are designed for outdoors warning only.** For optimal safety, citizens are encouraged to get weather radios using the **NOAA** (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and/or **SAME** (Specific Area Message Encoding) standards.





# EMERGENCY Rental & Utility Assistance

## Available for Nebraska Households

The Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program provides funds to assist Nebraska low-income households outside of Lancaster and Douglas Counties who are struggling to pay rent and utilities because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Households seeking financial support can apply by visiting the state's Coronavirus website page at **Coronavirus.Nebraska.gov**. Eligible households can obtain assistance for rent or utilities due from April 1, 2020 through November 30, 2021.

***Proof of financial need is required, and applicants must provide all required documents. Only applicants who meet all eligibility guidelines will be considered.***

***The Nebraska ERA Program is now open for all areas outside of Lancaster and Douglas counties. Applications will be accepted through at least August of 2021. Additional funds are subject to availability after August of 2021.***

### DOCUMENTS NEEDED

- Current lease or rental agreement
- Identification (Driver's license or other government issued photo ID)
- Proof of income for all household members who file income taxes
- Proof of financial loss or hardship due to Covid-19 (paystubs, unemployment, W-2s, medical bills, etc)

\*Douglas County, Lancaster County and certain Native American tribal entities have a separate application process. Information will be released soon!

### RENTER ELIGIBILITY

- Nebraska Resident (NOT including Lancaster or Douglas County residents)\*
- Current household income at or below 80% area median income. Get more information here: [www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html#2020\\_query](http://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html#2020_query)
- Assistance for up to 12 months of past due or future rent. An additional 3 months of assistance (for a total of 15) may be approved if the household is still experiencing housing instability.
- No more than \$20,000 total assistance for any household

**Learn more & apply online at [Coronavirus.Nebraska.gov](https://Coronavirus.Nebraska.gov)**

Questions? Call the ERA Program Contact Center at **833-500-8810** (available 8am – 7pm Monday – Friday)

